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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/826,225	04/04/2001	Julian Norley	P-1029	2459

7590 09/05/2002  
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EXAMINER

VARGOT, MATHIEU D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1732

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/826,725	Applicant(s) NERLEY et al.
Examiner M. VARGAS	Group Art Unit 1732

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address —

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/14/02
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction or election requirement

## Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the:
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 3
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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1. In view of the response to the election requirement, claims 7-15 have been cancelled, as per applicant's instructions.

2. Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 4, the language "the calendering process" lacks antecedent basis from claim 3, and "the" in this recitation should be changed to --a--.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sauzade et al (col. 2, line 58 through col. 3, line 9) in view of Shane et al (col. 10, line 73 through col. 11, line 30; col. 13, lines 10-11 and 46).

The primary reference discloses the basic claimed process for making a graphite article by forming a laminate of a plurality of sheets of graphite and directionally aligning them by pressing, Sauzade et al essentially lacking a clear disclosure that the graphite sheets would be flexible and the calendering process to make them. Shane et al discloses these aspects and one of ordinary skill in the art would have found their incorporation into the method of Sauzade et al as obvious to make a flexible heat conductor. In fact, the primary reference almost suggests forming a more flexible

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graphite sheet, in that the sheets disclosed therein are considered to be too brittle for use by themselves-- see column 3, lines 18-21 of Sauzade et al. Each reference teaches that the density of the article and its degree of (thermal) anisotropy would be dependent on the degree of pressure applied during the formation and hence claims 5 and 6 are submitted to have been met.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hoover is cited as of interest, in teaching a flexible graphite fiber thermal shunt.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Vargot whose telephone number is 703 308-2621.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0661.

M. Vargot

September 3, 2002

*M. Vargot*  
EXAMINER  
9/3/02